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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 12 October 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Since our last letter to you, on 9 October 2015, I regret to inform you that the situation in the occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate as a result of Israel's crimes and violations against the Palestinian people held hostage to its occupation. This situation warrants immediate attention by the international community, in particular the Security Council, to act to halt all violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people, as well as to provide the Palestinian people with international protection before the situation spirals further out of control. Each day that passes, more innocent lives are lost as is any hope to reach a peaceful two-State solution in future.

The following are just some tragic examples of the latest Palestinian casualties and human rights violations caused by the brutal raids and attacks of the occupying forces and their terrorist settlers over the past three days. The list also includes some additional violations by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian population under its occupation.

On 10 October 2015:

- Marwan Barbakh (13 years of age) and Khalil Othman (15 years of age) were shot dead during an Israeli raid in Gaza
- Ishaq Qasem Badran (16 years of age) was shot dead near the Damascus Gate in occupied East Jerusalem

On 11 October 2015:

- Noor Hassan, a 30-year-old pregnant woman, and her daughter Rahaf Hassan (2 years of age) were killed by an Israeli airstrike in Gaza

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- Ahmed Sharaka (13 years of age), from al-Jalazoun refugee camp, was shot dead with a live round during an Israeli military raid south of al-Bireh, near Ramallah

- The Ministry of Health announced that the occupying forces had shot and injured more than 1,300 Palestinians with live and rubber-coated bullets since the beginning of this month, noting that at least 75 Palestinians had been shot with live rounds on Sunday alone; of those, 53 Palestinians had been shot with live fire at Huwarra, south of Nablus, and a further 20 had been shot with live rounds, including expanding dumdum bullets

- At least 50 Palestinians were detained overnight Sunday in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem

On 12 October 2015:

- Hassan Khaled Manasra (15 years of age) was killed in Beit Hanina, north of occupied East Jerusalem

- Ahmed Saleh Manasra (13 years of age) was seriously injured in Beit Hanina

- Mustafa Adel al-Khatib (18 years of age) from Sur Baher in occupied East Jerusalem was shot and killed near Bab al-Asbat

- Eighteen Palestinians were wounded by Israeli occupying forces near Huwarra

- A young man was shot, wounded and kidnapped by the occupying forces north of Bethlehem

- Farah Bakeer (17 years of age), a Palestinian schoolgirl, was shot and seriously injured in occupied East Jerusalem

- A Palestinian prisoner, Fadi al-Darabi (30 years of age), from Jenin, was declared brain-dead after being transferred to an Israeli hospital following a stroke and acute bleeding while in captivity in an Israeli prison

- Terrorist Israeli settlers stormed two villages south of Nablus, Qusra and Jalud, under the protection of occupying forces, in an attempt to attack Palestinian homes and civilians

- According to reports today, at least 27 Palestinians, including several children, have been killed by the occupying forces since the beginning of October (12 days)

The violations mentioned above should trigger immediate action by the international community, including the Security Council, to finally take measures to provide the Palestinian civilian population with immediate protection, consistent with the provisions and obligations of international humanitarian law. The Palestinian people cannot remain the exception to the responsibility to protect civilians from such atrocities and flagrant breaches of the law.

At a time when the international community is needed to step up its efforts, the Palestinian leadership expresses its dismay that the Middle East Quartet, at the behest of the occupying Power, has cancelled its planned meeting that was to take place this week in the occupied State of Palestine and Israel. Indeed, the cancellation of this meeting at a time when it is most needed sends a very troubling message about the readiness and ability of the international community to undertake

the hard work of reviving peace prospects and the willingness to confront the continuation by Israel of its illegal and destructive policies. We appeal to the international community to accept its responsibilities and reject the occupying Power's obstruction of efforts to address this critical situation with the seriousness required to de-escalate tensions, save civilian lives and create a credible political horizon, with the termination of the occupation that began in 1967 as its end goal.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 557 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 9 October 2015 (A/ES-10/694-S/2015/772), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations